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February 3, 2004

031431 U.S. PTO
10/769915**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of CHIWATA, Nobuhiko
METHOD OF PRODUCING MINUTE METAL BALLS
Assignee: HITACHI METALS, LTD.
Our Ref. Q79705

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above comprising 12 sheets of the specification, including the claims and abstract all in Japanese, and 2 sheets of drawings. Copies of the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney and Assignment and English Translation of the attached application (which is in Japanese) will be submitted at a later date. An Information Disclosure Statement with references is also filed herewith.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>8</u>	-	<u>20</u>	=		x	\$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	-	<u>3</u>	=		x	\$86.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee									\$770.00

TOTAL FEE	<u>\$770.00</u>
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A check for the statutory filing fee of \$770.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.



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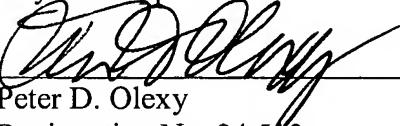
Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
Japan	2003-317631	September 10, 2003
Japan	2003-002923	January 9, 2003

The priority document(s) will be filed at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Attorneys for Applicant

By: 
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